



NJLA Executive Board Meeting
February 18, 2020
10:00am–12:00pm
Monroe Township Public Library

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Danielle Cesena, Leslin Charles, Pham Condello, Corey Fleming, Kate Jagers, Darby Malvey, Adriana Mamay, Eileen Palmer, Will Porter, Susanne Sacchetti, Jen Schureman Brenner, Jessica Trujillo, Pat Tumulty, Leah Wagner, Kerry Weinstein

Guests: Jeanne Marie Ryan, Public Relations Committee; Joyce Valenza, Rutgers University

Absent: Amy Babcock-Landry, Judah Hamer, Emily Moore

Call to Order - Jen Schureman Brenner, President

The President calls the meeting to order at 10:20am.

Adoption of Agenda - Jen Schureman Brenner, President

Leah Wagner moves to accept the agenda. Eileen Palmer seconds, and the motion passes.

Minutes - Kate Jagers, Secretary

Board Meeting January 21, 2020

With no corrections, the minutes are accepted.

Financial Report

- Pat Tumulty reports that Keena Rudolph has started as the new NJLA bookkeeper as of February 4, and has met with the Finance Committee and reviewed the draft Financial Review, which will be presented at the March meeting of the Board.
- Pat Tumulty presents the budget to the Board for review. Eileen Palmer questions the negative funds in the Past President's budget line. Pat explains that the listing on the expense line should have been put on last year's budget instead of this year's.
- Jen Schureman Brenner presents the bill list, which Will Porter moves to accept. Pham Condello seconds, and the motion passes.

Reports within NJLA

Jen Schureman Brenner, President

- Attended ALA Chapter Leadership Forum at Midwinter with Leah Wagner
- Assisted with the NJLA Store at ALA Midwinter, and reports that a lot of socks sold out (and there was a visit and purchase from incoming ALA Executive Director Tracie Hall!)

- Attended the Winter Wholesale Trade Show at the Javits Center in February, which is the show that Cheryl McBride attends to make purchases for the NJLA Store
- Attended Conference Committee Meeting -- Chairs of the Committee met with Harrah's representatives earlier in the month. Jen reports that there will once again be a separate, private room designated as a breastfeeding/new mother's room.
- Attended Finance Committee Meeting -- Kenna Rudolph isn't comfortable using the "cheaper online version" of QuickBooks that NJLA has been using and requests the purchase of the full version. The Finance Committee recommends approving authorizing the purchase of the desktop version of QuickBooks at the expense of no more than \$500. The motion passes.
- Jen also participated with a LibraryLinkNJ Delivery Focus Group along with Corey Fleming

Pat Tumulty, Executive Director - [Full report](#)

- Participated in ALA Fly-in Day with John Wallace, Chair of Public Policy Committee, on Feb 10-11 and met with Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman's staff, discussed broadband with Congressman Frank Pallone, and had positive meetings with the offices of Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez.
- The President's budget was announced, which again proposed elimination of federal funding for library programs. A "Dear Colleague" letter effort is underway.
- There is a scheduled meeting to work with staff of the NJ Treasury Office to request funding in Governor Murphy's upcoming budget.
- Pat reports that while Conference Sponsorships are doing well, we need more vendor booths registered. Assistance from the Executive Board in reaching out to potential vendors and sponsors the Conference Committee hopes to have attendee registration up on the website soon
- Past President Patricia Hannon, who served as NJLA President 2003-2004, passed away. Pat and a number of other NJLA Past Presidents attended her services.

Eileen Palmer, ALA Councilor - [Full report](#)

- The original resolution presented by the Social Responsibility Roundtable on the topic of defending the free speech of supporters of the movement for Palestinian rights was so poorly written that no committee was willing to support it, and since no one could come to an agreement to revise the resolution, the original one was presented for vote at ALA Midwinter and the motion failed. Eileen is hoping that the resolution does get revised and proposed again in June.
- There was much discussion of ALA's financial issues at Midwinter, which is summarized in the ALA Councilor's report. After this report was submitted to the NJLA Executive Board, ALA issued a press release. The association has been bouncing checks, and even with a \$15 million endowment fund, are essentially "cash poor" due to management and investment errors.
- The ALA reorganization project is now called "Forward Together," and the topic was not reviewed at Midwinter. NJLA submitted a letter of concern in response to the SCOE

Report. A couple of other states have also released statements, but many chapters are staying relatively quiet for now.

- The new ALA Executive Director, Tracie D. Hall, begins February 24
- Jen Schureman Brenner added that a lot of states asked about NJLA's statement about the ALA SCOE Report, and Jen was proud to be able to talk about the solid relationship NJLA has with our ALA Councilor and how beneficial it is to be up-to-date on ALA issues and other national topics.

New Business

1. **Organizational Membership Task Force** - Jen Schureman Brenner moves to establish a task force to review an Organizational Membership model for NJLA. Leah Wagner seconds, and the motion passes. An organization membership model would re-work NJLA's existing structure in such a way that would allow Institutional Memberships to provide all staff members of an institution membership to NJLA. Jen shared Virginia Library Association's model. Adriana Mamay and Leslin Charles suggest that this Task Force include someone from VALE, or at least make sure that CUS is part of discussion. There were a number of questions, including concerns about those who work in school libraries, as well as a recommendation that the Task Force strongly consider all hybrid options and deeply consider many different models. Eileen Palmer stresses the importance of understanding short- and long-term financial viability.
2. **Nominations & Elections Committee** - Jen Schureman Brenner opened the topic of an email that was sent to the Board from Tonya Garcia. Leah Wagner, Committee Chair, reviewed the process and challenges of drafting a ballot for the benefit of discussion by the Board. The Board discussed some suggestions for educating NJLA members about the work of the Executive Board, as well as promotional opportunities to encourage Board participation. Jen will send an email response to Tonya.
3. **Committee Structure** - Jen Schureman Brenner tasked the Board Organizational Subcommittee to review Code for Committees, paying particular attention to the crossover of leadership.
4. **Snapshot Day** - Jeanne Marie Ryan, PR Committee Chair, reported that 97 libraries participated in Snapshot Day. The Committee drafted "word art" that Pat Tumulty will be bringing to the upcoming Governor's Office visit, along with comments that people provided through the course of Snapshot Day at libraries across the state.

Old Business

No old business

Partnering organizations

1. **NJ State Library** - Mary Chute, State Librarian, [submitted a full report](#)
2. **Rutgers LIS** - Joyce Valenza reported via Zoom
 - Four offers are out for LIS tenure tracts, and the department hopes to hire at least 3 of them.

- Rutgers LIS is in the middle of an election of a new Chair election; Dr. Marie Radford is running unopposed
- Rutgers School of Information is planning to be a Platinum Sponsor of the 2020 NJLA Conference

3. **NJ Association of School Librarians** - Pat Tumulty reported that Unlock Student Potential is quite active. Pat also spoke with others at ALA Midwinter about how to bring state groups together to work on these types of efforts, and is currently at least planning to collaborate with NYLA. NJASL is paying for software to highlight school media jobs on the Unlock Student Potential website. Joyce Valenza thanks the Task Force for all of the excellent work being done, and suggests working with Pennsylvania as well (resources list at paschoollibraryproject.org).

4. **NJLTA** - Pat Tumulty reported that Pat Pavlack also plans to attend the upcoming visit to the Governor's Office. The next Trustee Institute is being planned for October 2020, and registration information will go out shortly ([details on NJLTA website](#))

Action Plan for Next Meeting

The next NJLA Executive Board meeting will be **Tuesday, March 17, 10:00am**, location TBD

Good of the Order

- Jen Schureman Brenner thanks Tanya Finney Estrada, Conference Committee Vice Chair, for communicating with Drexel University, who will be a Platinum Sponsor of the President's Dessert Reception at the 2020 NJLA Conference
- Leah Wagner congratulates Kate Jagers, who will begin her new position as Director of Highland Park Public Library tomorrow morning

Pham Condello moves to adjourn at 11:42am.

Respectfully submitted by Kate Jagers, Secretary